(i) Balance of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase I & II for Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West Corridors respectively.

(ii) 4/6 laning of 10,000 kms. Of National Highways on Build Operate and Transfer basis under NHDP Phase III.

(iii) Accelerated Road Development in North East Region.

(iv) Up gradation of about 20,000 kms. Of single/intermediate lane National Highways to 2-lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP Phase IV.

(v) 6 laning of around 5000 kms. Under NHDP phase V.

(vi) Identification and construction of around 1,000 km. Expressway under NHDP Phase VI.

(vii) Construction of by passes, flyovers ROBs etc. at required locations under NHDP Phase VII.

NHD Project

4614. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to take up the National Highway Development Project Phases V to VII on a BOT basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had set up an Empowered Committee to tackle the problems of delay in the acquisition of land, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Government has decided to take up all future works of NHDP, as far as possible, mainly on BOT basis with viability gap funding support as per policy. However in certain exceptional cases, some works may be taken up with fuller funding support by the Government in public interest.

(c) and (d) A Committee of Secretaries (COS) headed by Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to resolve the issues related to bottlenecks in the ongoing projects and Central-State and Inter-Ministerial coordination. The Committee has already started functioning to tackle the various problems including delay in the acquisition of land

Meeting of National Shipping Board

4615. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the 105th meeting of the National Shipping Board was held recently,

(b) the recommendations made by the Board on the coastal shipping, regulation of shipping lines, off shore and marine logistic support services;

(c) the other major recommendations made by the Board, and

(d) in what manner the recommendations are going to boost maritime operations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Shipping Board in its 105th meeting has recommended for exemption of customs' duty on bunkers and spares required for coastal vessels Detailed discussions on regulation of shipping lines, off shore and marine logistic support services could not take place.Consequently, no recommendations could be made.

(c) However, other major recommendations made by the Board are as under:—

(i) Automatic Identification System (AIS) should be introduced. This system requires on board a ship technology capable of providing information about a ship to other ships and to coastal authorities, automatically. In India introduction of AIS is very much essential for ensuring effective security of marine trade and bringing Indian monitoring system at par with other maritime nations.

(ii) Concrete efforts should be made to prevent spurious distress calls. Spurious calls on the distress frequency have become a